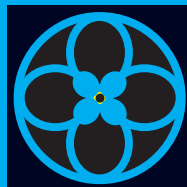


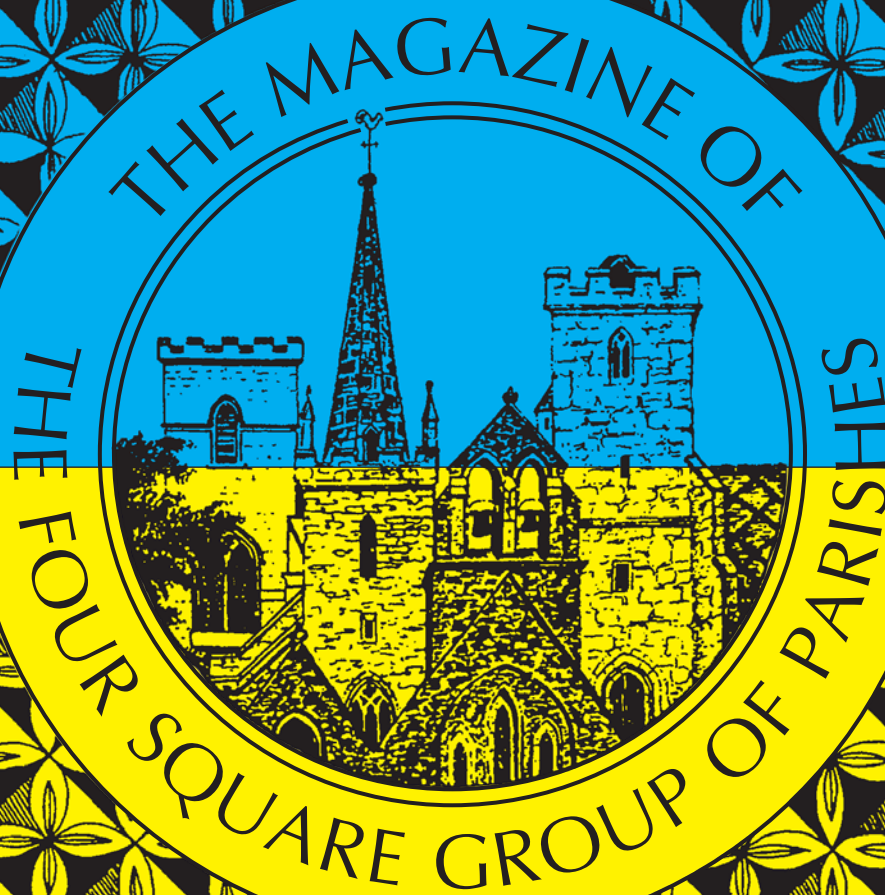
ELMBRIDGE



ELMLEY LOVETT

FEBRUARY

HAMPPTON LOVETT



2024



RUSHOCK



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EDITOR’S NOTES

Welcome and a very Happy New Year to you all!

Another bumper issue this month with lots of events to report upon from our parishes.

Thank you so much for all of the kind messages of support for the new look full colour magazine. They are much appreciated and make all of the effort and time spent worthwhile.

Happy reading!

Marzena Cartwright

CHRISTMAS TREES AND MISLETOE SALES - YELLOW SUBMARINE CHARITY

Tony Lloyd would like to thank all those who bought trees and mistletoe for last Christmas for the benefit of The Yellow Submarine Charity.

The proceeds totalled £297 which has been donated to the Yellow Submarine Charity and will enable more holidays for autistic children and give their carers a respite break.

* * * * *

Looking at the crop there will again be some trees available for Christmas 2024 - further news in November.

Tony Lloyd, Little Durrance, Berry Lane, Upton Warren

Cornish Holiday Cottage on The Beautiful Roseland Peninsula



Cornerways is situated in the pretty village of St Just in Roseland, close to St Mawes and the many beautiful beaches of the area. Falmouth, Truro, and Trelisick House are all within easy reach.
Cottage sleeps 5 (guests provide own linen).
Prices from £350 per week and with availability for 2024 holidays.
Contact Dee Cutler on 07584 660104 for information.



RECTOR'S THOUGHTS

This will almost certainly be a year of a General Election although if the Prime Minister is minded to draw out the agony of what is almost certain to be a year of continuous campaigning he could just about call an election for January 2025.

I have always held the principle that a parish priest should not publicly give support to a particular political party and I do not intend to start to do so now. These pages will never carry an endorsement in my name for any party. If you see one printed here it will be because someone has managed to use Artificial Intelligence to pretend to be me and through that means has managed to imitate my style so effectively that the editors are

fooled by that means. That probably won't happen in my time but someone will almost certainly try to pretend to be one of my successors and will do it pretty convincingly. I will write about this another time.

So I won't endorse a particular party but that does not stop me from being political. I care deeply about the health of our country and I mean that in the widest sense. I am not just thinking about the NHS. From time to time in these pages I have thought about what the Book of Common Prayer of 1662 teaches us about society and I will probably do so again. That book was a response to a question that divided England for over a hundred years. How can we all pray together in one place and do so in peace? The Prayer Book was one of a number of pieces of legislation enacted in the 1660s with the intention of making sure that the Civil War of the 1640s could never happen again and so far it hasn't. As I look around the world I feel increasingly grateful for this and I don't take it for granted. The United States is becoming increasingly violent and I can envisage violent disorder in many of our European neighbours. I still hold out hope that it will not happen here. The political establishment that was largely formed in the 1660s still holds.

One of the most distinguished political thinkers of recent years was Sir Roger Scruton, who sadly died in 2020. Time and again I have found his thinking has helped my own, even when I have not agreed with him. Sir Roger and I share quite a bit in common, being both from a working class background and having both attended the same school (Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe). Actually if I had ever had the opportunity to talk with him, which sadly I never did, he left the RGS four years before I arrived and our paths never crossed thereafter, I would have asked him why he was so opposed to social legislation. After all, both he and I were beneficiaries of the legislative programme that followed the Beveridge Report of 1942, largely enacted by the Labour government of 1945 under Clement Atlee and then maintained by the Conservative government of 1951 to 1964 whose dominant figures were Winston Churchill and Harold MacMillan. We both had access to a high quality education that was largely denied to our parents and which would not have been possible for us if the only academically excellent schools available were establishments like the prestigious one just a few miles down the road from us. I refer here to Eton College where I once attended a lecture and remember being openly sneered at as I walked from the school minibus to the chapel. My clothing made my social origin obvious as did that of my hosts. I let the resentment go many years ago but I have not forgotten the experience.

Sir Roger played the organ in his Wiltshire parish church and once rather brilliantly debated against Richard Dawkins about Christian faith. He also brilliantly wrote about good societies and his insights are those that I feel that I have experienced in the time that I have spent in these parishes.

"The social world," he wrote, "emerges through free association, rooted in friendship and community life. And the customs and institutions that we cherish have grown from below, by the 'invisible hand' of co-operation. They have rarely been imposed from above by the work of politics, the role of which is to reconcile our many aims, and not to dictate or control them."

Now the phrases that I love in this passage are "free association"; "rooted in friendship"; and "community life". I am also drawn to the idea of "the 'invisible hand' of co-operation". When I think of these ideas I recall the way in which our communities supported the lonely and isolated during the lockdowns imposed on us during the worst of the Covid pandemic. I also think of the way in which when some sadness befalls a member of our communities so many people gather round to help and support. I think of someone who recently suffered a sad loss showing me the meals in various vessels made by her neighbours on a counter

in her kitchen. I also think of how people gather together in churches and pubs to celebrate the joy of a family through a wedding or their sorrow through a funeral. I agree with Roger Scruton that it is impossible to impose this kind of life from above and that it takes years to build this kind of society from below and that when it works the best every member of society from the highest to the lowest has their essential part to play.

And one last thought from Sir Roger. He speaks of the 'invisible hand' of co-operation. The idea of the invisible hand was first developed by Adam Smith when he wrote about market economics in the 18th century. Smith argued that when markets were left to organise themselves without outside interference an 'invisible hand' that he did not define would work everything out for good. Scruton also believed that when societies work well this invisible hand will be at work. I have noticed how, when our parishes are working well, good things seem to have a habit of happening at just the right time. I believe in "the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit", and that if you open your door to your neighbour in good times and in bad, the Holy Spirit who brings us together will flow between us, drawing us together in a holy communion. What we do in church in the service of Holy Communion is a foundation of fellowship in our parishes and an expression of it. And I believe that every time, as the lovely Louis Armstrong song puts it, two friends greet each other by saying "how do you do, they're really saying, I love you." That is a holy communion isn't it?

So my understanding of politics is that they are essentially local. They are free associations "rooted in friendship and community life" and that kind of association cannot start in Westminster either in the Houses of Parliament or Church House which is just across the road and where the Church of England has its national offices. This association always starts in our church and civic parishes. It starts right here.

Revd Stephen Winter

THE PARISH LENT COURSE 2024

Lent has been around for a very long time. St Cyril of Jerusalem created it 1700 years ago, basing the idea on the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness at the start of his public ministry. One of the ways that we keep Lent is to do some study together and we do this at the Cutnall Green tea rooms on a Wednesday evening or in the Narthex at St Andrew's, Ombersley on Thursday lunchtimes.

This will be my last Lent Course that I will do in these parishes before I retire in August this year and I prepare the course myself so why don't you make the most of having me around while you can and come and join me.

This year we will be thinking about Faith, Hope and Poetry (I have pinched the title from a book by the wonderful Malcolm Guite a priest, scholar and poet whose work I love). Rowan Williams, also a fine poet, wrote that "all poetry begins from that moment of stillness, when something in your environment, something in your language, something in your experience, brings you up short and you don't quite know what to say but you have to work very hard to say it, all the same".

That is why I think that the best thinking about God and about life gets said through poetry.

The Lent Course will take place over 5 evenings in the Cutnall Green tearooms at 7pm each week beginning on Wednesday 21st February. And they will take place in the Narthex at St Andrew's Church, Ombersley at 12.30pm each week over 5 lunchtimes beginning on Thursday 22nd February. There will be soup and bread provided in both venues. (Please note that there will be a £5 charge to cover costs at Cutnall Green and a voluntary contribution to a local charity at Ombersley.)

So make the most of having me around for this last time and let the riches of poetry into your life as we look at this together. I hope to see many of you at one of these venues.

Revd Stephen Winter

2024 THE WORCESTERSHIRE SEVERN PARISHES

Service schedule

*Elmley Lovett, Hampton Lovett, Elmbridge, Rushock,
Hartlebury, Ombersley, Doverdale*

February 4th 2nd Sunday before Lent			February 11th Sunday before Lent			February 14th Ash Wednesday			February 18th 1st Sunday of Lent		
9.00 am	Hampton Lovett	HC-CW	9.00 am	Rushock	HC-CW	7.30pm	Hampton Lovett	HC-CW	9.00 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW
10.00 am	Hartlebury	Sunday First	10.00 am	Ombersley	Family Service				10.00 am	Hartlebury	MP-CW
10.30 am	Elmbridge	Family Service	10.30 am	Elmley Lovett	MP-BCP				10.00 am	Ombersley	MP-CW
11.00 am	Doverdale	MP-BCP	11.00 am	Hartlebury	HC-CW				11.00 am	Doverdale	HC-BCP
11.00 am	Ombersley	HC-CW							6.00 pm	Hampton Lovett	ES-BCP

February 25th 2nd Sunday of Lent			March 1st World Day of Prayer			March 3rd 3rd Sunday of Lent		
9.00 am	Elmley Lovett	HC-BCP	11.00 am	Hampton Lovett		9.00 am	Hampton Lovett	HC-CW
11.00 am	Doverdale	HC-BCP				10.00 am	Hartlebury	Sunday First
						10.30 am	Elmbridge	Family Service
						11.00 am	Doverdale	MP-BCP
						11.00 am	Ombersley	HC-CW

KEY

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship

HC - Holy Communion

MP - Morning Prayer

ES - Evensong

LIGHT

Two days after the beginning of this year 2024, Lynne and I travelled down by train to west London. The next day we had booked to attend an outdoor event nearby which we had been looking forward to enjoying. The only trouble was the weather. That very evening heavy rain was forecast for London. We left our budget hotel wearing our waterproofs and carrying umbrellas. We hopped onto the number 75 bus for a short journey.

We alighted at the Victoria Gate of Kew Gardens. We had booked to follow the Light Trail and we joined others, similarly attired in waterproofs and clinging to umbrellas, as the rain began to beat down even harder. We had been advised to allow two hours to walk round the trail. We actually spent one and a half hours, but it was wonderful. Yes, we got wet. The paths were flooded at times. But the experience was amazing.

I cannot describe how many different light installations we saw, and how remarkable some of them were. It was the scale of them that took your breath away. Photographs are no good, for they neither give the scale or the wonder of the constantly changing light patterns or the music that accompanied some of the installations.

Three of the light displays really made a deep impression on me. Early on there was one called cascade. We walked through an avenue of trees with branches overhead. Hanging from the branches were thin strips of lights. These were constantly changing in colours, with rippling effects, a cascade of colour and light movement overhead. It was the scale of this that was so impressive it continued for some distance behind us and ahead of us.

At the end of the trail was one of the most admired of the light shows. Music was played as we watched the Palm House over a lake. Light patterns were projected onto the Palm House, onto the changing fountains on the lake and there were also lights across the lake. It was all quite remarkable. The music and lights were completely synchronised. We saw people standing for some time in the rain watching as the music changed, and the light show with it.

For me, the display that moved me most was the Fire Garden. We turned a corner and looked down on an amazing sight. The Temperate House, the world's largest Victorian glass house, was lit up in orange light so as to make the pillars of the structure like pillars from something out of ancient Egypt. Between us and the Temperate House were 300 candles, large seemingly oil burning candles, flickering in the evening breeze (and rain). Again, it was the scale of all of this - it just brought a lump to the throat of wonder and emotion.

Light is so important for us, for life itself. It is a key aspect of celebrations in various religions. In Christianity we think of Christ as the light of the world, reflected in the Christingle with the candle placed into an orange. Many people love to come to a candle lit Carol Service. The sight of light shining in darkness brings comfort and hope.

There is so much that could be written about light. In physics, Einstein's theory of special relativity postulates that the speed of light in a vacuum is constant, and it appears in various mathematical formulae as 'c.' Meanwhile there is the rollout of full fibre broadband. This is all about sending information not by electricity cables, but by pulses of infra-red or visible light down optic fibre cables. It is a much more efficient way of moving data. Light can do amazing things.

Light, such a powerful symbol of victory over darkness. Our very existence relies on the light and heat from the sun. We really enjoyed our visit to the Light Trail at Kew. It was inspiring. I hope that there will be good times of light for you and me in our lives this coming year.

Stephen Owens

Stephen Owens is a retired priest living in Hartlebury and a member of St James' congregation

NATURE ROUND UP

Rain, Animal Activity, Odd Rhymes, Wildlife Curiosities and Careful Gardening

I am taking a break from building my Ark to put digit to keyboard to prepare this month's literary masterpiece. We have certainly had plenty of wet weather lately which has soaked all the fields to saturation point with lots of muddy water, possibly contaminated with herbicides and pesticides, pouring into the ditches and ultimately into local watercourses. Locally the flooding has mainly been a short-term annoyance but many people elsewhere have had their homes rendered uninhabitable. Wildlife will also have suffered with many burrowing species such as Badgers, Foxes, Moles, voles and other small mammals being drowned. Hibernating Hedgehogs and Hazel Dormice will also have become victims. Many animals will have lost access to their feeding grounds and birds-of-prey will find it difficult to catch a meal. Owls are particularly affected as their soft feathers, which enable them to hunt silently, will become waterlogged and so they will not be able to fly.



Our birdfeeders are still very busy with most of the common garden bird species being seen regularly. We have also had over-wintering Redwings and Fieldfares on the Rowan and Crab Apple trees. The Robin's song has increased in both frequency and volume as it maintains its grip on its breeding territory. Collared Doves have also been calling recently and will be breeding very soon if indeed they ever stopped! The Raven has been heard locally emitting its 'cronk' call. A pair of Ravens did nest in Rushock one year but appear to have relocated to Chaddesley Woods. Tawny Owls are also quite vocal at this time of year twit-ting and twoo-ing to secure a territory. Hopefully, by the time that you read this, there will be much more birdsong about including Skylarks which can usually be heard in Park Lane. The 'Merlin' App will help you to identify other species by their song.

There has been very little other animal activity in the garden recently. Frog spawn has been seen in Cornwall but it will be late-March or April before any appears locally. Insect activity is virtually absent at the moment but Buff-tailed and White-tailed Bumblebee queens may be active in February and will appreciate any early flowering plants such as Hellebores, Snowdrops, Mahonia and Pulmonaria. If you come across a lethargic or exhausted looking bumblebee it can be revived by feeding sugar water (2 teaspoons of white sugar and 1 of water) offered in a spoon or a shallow container such as a jar lid may help revive it. Honey is not recommended as it may carry bee diseases. Alternatively placing the bee on nectar-rich flower will allow it to feed naturally. They generally do not sting but can be lifted up using a leaf, tissue or whatever is available.



If you disturb a hibernating bumblebee please restore the nest and leave it alone. They will be seeking out nest sites soon which, in the case of Mining Bees, will show as a hole surrounded by a small heap of excavated soil which resembles a small volcano (left). Please keep a look out for them before you mow your lawn as they are essential pollinators. Other bumblebees will use holes in the ground such as old mouse nests to create a cosy home.



Guess the rhyme

Over the Christmas period there was much mention of the Elf on a Shelf and people on social media were challenged to come up with

nature-based pictures illustrating an animal sat on an inanimate object.

There were some very inventive entries including a Snipe on a Pipe, a Coot on a Boot and a Bittern on a Mitten! Have a look at the picture on the right showing a common garden bird and a form of sweetmeat that has some Scottish connections and try to guess the title.

Answer at bottom of next page in very small font. No peeping!



Animal curiosities

Being an avid reader of any nature-based material I come across some unusual items from time to time:

Confusing frog: The 'rule of thumb' relating to the identity of any animal is based on the premise that 'if it quacks like a duck, it is a duck'. Researchers from the University of Wolverhampton have discovered a tiny Indian frog that flies in the face of this assumption by making a very authentic quacking noise.

Hairy hedgehogs: Taxonomists regularly update the classification of organisms which you may have noticed in the renaming of some popular garden plants recently.

Two new species of animals, one of which is shown on the right, have been found in the Philippines. They have hair rather than the trademark spines but have been classified as belonging to the same family as hedgehogs. It actually does look like a spineless hedgehog. They certainly know how to confuse people!



Unusual bird plumage: There have been a couple of sightings of common British birds that are rather different to the norm. Now that we have a full colour print version of the magazine I can share these with you

all rather than just the digital readers. The one on the left was taken by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust members Stella and Mike Sullivan and is a leucistic (lacking in pigment) Robin. The canary imitator in the middle is a similarly afflicted Blue Tit. The one on the right is a Pink Robin from Australia which I have included purely for aesthetic reasons as I couldn't resist its colour and rotundity!



Is Spring about to Spring?

Hopefully by early February the weather will have improved and people's thoughts will turn to doing things in their garden. It's the last opportunity to put up birdboxes before the birds pair up, according to legend, on Valentines' Day although they may take a chance on anything put up later. Bee and Butterfly housing put in place now will be ready for use when the potential residents become active. Please be mindful of hibernating animals if you decide to do some clearing up in the garden or, better still, leave things undisturbed for a bit longer. Consider whether you can embrace a more nature-friendly approach to your gardening including leaving pesticides and weedkillers out of the equation. Predatory wildlife will deal with your garden pests, but you need to have a bit of patience as predators will not appear until there is food available for them. Insecticides are not selective so, if you spray them around at random you will exterminate both friends and enemies as well as contaminating the local environment. Pesticide residues can persist in the soil for a long time and will adversely affect useful soil organisms such as earthworms.

Time spent in Nature is never wasted and I would suggest that a bit of time spent outdoors each day will greatly improve your outlook on life. The health benefits are well documented.

Happy February.

(Quiz answer: Dunnock on a Tunnock)



Terry Green

COUNTRY DIARY - February

"Red sky at night – shepherds delight." Anon

The British, it is fair to say, are pretty obsessed with the weather. It is often noted that other countries in the rest of the world have a climate, we have weather! Long before modern weather forecasting we developed easy to remember sayings that indicated what the day held in store. This was of interest to all, and not just farmers and fishermen.

One of the first of these weather saws that we learnt as children was "red sky at night, shepherds delight: red sky in the morning, shepherds warning". Wags of course, turned the second half of this into "red sky in the morning, shepherd's house on fire!" The thinking behind this is that a red sky at sunset in the west indicates high pressure and a settled weather system whereas in the morning in the east, rain clouds are in the offing.

Seaweed was an early barometer: if the seaweed was dry the air was dry but if moisture levels rose, indicating rain, the seaweed would soften and swell. Cows lying down if rain is coming soon is another favourite but with little basis in fact. Cows lie down to cud, wet or dry, and if it really throws it down they will hot-hoof it to the nearest hedge or tree and take shelter.

I like the date-based sayings. Candlemas day on the second of February was a marker for the rest of the winter. If it is "fair and bright then winter will have another fight", that is, a lot more winter to come but if it "brings cloud and rain winter will not come again." This indicates settled weather one way or another, as does Saint Swithin's day on the 15th July. If it rains on this day then we will get 40 days more rain and whilst 40 days seems unlikely we often get a set pattern of weather around that time of year, either hot or wet.

My favourite is "if the twenty-fourth of August be fair and clear then hope for a prosperous autumn that year". The idea is that a lot of the harvest will be taken off and apples and other autumn fruits will benefit from ripening in a benign autumn. These days we are used to more settled spells of weather, be it wet or dry, cold or hot, rather than the variable patterns we used to enjoy with much more variation: is that climate change? One of the old sayings that doesn't seem to hold true anymore is "if hoar frost comes on mornings twain the third day surely will bring rain" and also "rain before 7, fine by 11".

Farmers used to rely heavily on weather predictions before modern forecasting, as crop and harvests depended upon it, but at sea the fishermen's lives depended upon it. Vice-Admiral Robert Fitzroy was the captain of HMS Beagle – on Charles Darwin's famous voyage – and as a pioneering meteorologist he started to make daily weather predictions from his observations, which he called 'forecasts'. In 1854 he established what would later be known as the Met Office to offer sailors some weather predictions to help keep them safe at sea.

He sent out instruments to the captains of various ships to collect data and started to collate the information to identify trends and weather types. He helped design a type of barometer which was set up in ports to help indicate if the sailors could put out or not: he also gave some general interpretation of the readings. A big storm in 1859 prompted him to develop charts for his forecasting and he established a dozen land stations to transmit weather reports at certain times using the new telegraph system.

He developed a system of hoisting cones at ports to warn of gales but fleet owners objected to this as it kept their ships in dock and unprofitable. However, many fishermen protested as it had saved lives of their colleagues. He died in 1865 by suicide, suffering from depression but his name was used in many global landmarks from his nautical travels. In 2002 the Met Office renamed the Shipping Forecast area of Finisterre to Fitzroy in honour of their founding father.

His forecasting probably saved many lives, and subsequent developments in meteorology, particularly maritime, owed a lot to his industry and zeal. Before Fitzroy the fisherman probably had to rely on another old saying "when the wind is in the west, that's when fishes bite the best; when the wind is in the south it blows the bait in fishes mouth; when the wind is in the east that's when fishes bite the least; when the wind is in the north, fish nor sailors don't go forth."

A.J.Selby -Kindly submitted by Barrie Audis



CUTNALL GREEN C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Members of the Community,

As we bid farewell to the past and welcome the dawn of a new year, it is with great pleasure and optimism that I extend my warmest wishes to each and every member of our extraordinary 4 Square family. The journey of 2023 has been one filled with tests, triumphs, and invaluable lessons, and as we step into 2024, I find myself reflecting on the collective strength and resilience that defines our community.

As we embark on this new chapter, let us carry forward the lessons of the past while maintaining an unwavering focus on the future. Our commitment to academic excellence, holistic development, and fostering a nurturing environment remains steadfast. Together, let us continue to cultivate an atmosphere where curiosity flourishes, and the pursuit of knowledge becomes a lifelong journey.

In the coming months, we have exciting plans and initiatives to share with you all so please keep an eye out for our school newsletter, our website and social media pages as well as these articles. Our dedicated staff are tirelessly working to implement innovative teaching methodologies, ensuring that our pupils are well-equipped to navigate the complexities of an ever-changing world.

I encourage each member of our community to set personal and collective goals for the year ahead. Whether it be academic achievements, personal growth, or community service, let us aspire to make a positive impact not only within the walls of our school but also in the broader community.

Moreover, let us not forget the importance of self-care and the well-being of those around us. In the pursuit of success, it is crucial that we nurture our physical, emotional, and mental health. Together, we can create an environment where everyone feels supported and valued.

In closing, I am filled with gratitude for the resilience and tenacity displayed by the 4 Square community throughout the past year. As we stand at the threshold of 2024, let us embrace the opportunities that lie ahead, united in our commitment to excellence, compassion, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Wishing you a joyful, prosperous, and fulfilling New Year!

Warm regards,

Mr King
Head of School
Cutnall Green C of E Primary School

Upcoming Open Day on Saturday 2nd March – if you, members of your family or friends, would like to book come and see our school, then please contact our office to book an appointment or come along on the day.

SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

Mon 5th June '23 - 10:00am - 1:00pm
Mon 18th Sept '23 - 10:00am - 6:00pm
Fri 20th Oct '23 - 10:00am - 1:00pm
Wed 29th Nov '23 - 10:00am - 6:00pm
Sat 2nd March '24 - 10:00am - 1:00pm
Mon 3rd June '24 - 10:00am - 1:00pm

Book a visit
office: ag@cutnallgreen.co.uk
01299 851250

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"Pupils make outstanding progress, in many cases, exceeding the expectations for their age"

Before Christmas, everyone in school was entranced by the re-enactment of The Real Meaning of Christmas by The Open The Book Team.

We are very fortunate to have this lovely group of people bring bible stories to life in such an interactive and inspiring way: involving our children in the story telling. Thank you so much.



We had a fantastic ending to our Christmas term with the Christingle Service at Elmley Lovett Church.

A big thank you goes out to Richard Cartwright who assisted in organising this event and Reverend Stephen who led the beautiful service. We all enjoyed a superb reading from our very own Sophie in Year 1.



On our return to school on Tuesday 9th January 2024, we had an Outdoor Learning Day. Children were able to practise their Forest Schools skills. They were able to build and create shelters and shave their own wooden pegs, willow fence weaving and using printing to create forest bunting.



LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF WORCESTER



Communicating with God

Part of our calling as Christians is to constantly examine and deepen our relationship with ourselves, the Gospel and with God, I suppose you could say to continually develop our communication skills. You could say that God is the most effective communicator there is, because if we are tuned in right – God can communicate to us through everything that exists. The Jewish writer Martin Buber points this out in his book I and Thou, he wrote that ‘every “thou” is a gateway through to the Eternal Thou’ – for him a tree was just as much a ‘thou’ as a cat or a human being.

The traditional Christian word for the communication between God and human beings is of course Prayer. But so often we find it hard to pray, particularly in the light of all the world’s problems! So how do we do it? What do we say?

I’m reminded of a tale I heard about an old man who has gone into the local church each and every day for many years, not a religious man, yet without fail he was there. One day his mate says to him.

Ere Alf, what do ya when ya goes into Church?

He says – I pray

What do ya say

He says, I don’t say nothin

What do ya do then?

Well – I just sits there and looks at im and he looks at me,

Unknowingly that old man had a very special prayer life- one based on giving time to gaze and listen.

When we get right down to it, prayer is not about place, posture or eloquence. Prayer is essentially about being together with God and if our relationship with God is to grow, then just as in our earthly relationships, we need to make time to be in God’s presence and of course we need to listen!

This making time and taking time to listen is at the heart of our Christian discipleship and there have been many tomes written in order to help Christians to make time, to listen and to pray. One writer of such books is Sister Lavinia Byrne. ‘Listening is all’ she says; ‘and we can listen anywhere, in stillness or in the reality of the business of everyday life. But listen!’.

Rt Revd Martin Gorick Bishop of Dudley

MORNING PRAYER

The dates for Morning Prayer are as follows: (All are Wednesday morning at 09.15 am);

February

07:02:24	Rushock
14:02:24	Ombersley
20:02:24	Hampton Lovett
27:02:24	Doverdale

Diana Glendenning

THE WI PANTOMIME 1981

This is a picture of the WI pantomime, Cinderella year, 1981. They were performing for the Foursquare senior citizens.

The fairy is Lily Tilt. She used to run the post office. Other players are Jean Coats, Audrey Greenhill, Pat Stone, Betty Shuck. I cannot remember anybody else, perhaps other people can?

Betty Shuck





ELMBRIDGE NEWS

CHRISTMAS POST

Once again Sylvia Clift and Ann Carter together with their willing team of temporary 'postal workers' have delivered.

What have they delivered?

They have organised, sorted and delivered 586 Christmas cards to 65 houses in Elmbridge and surrounding area.

With generous donations from those who used this excellent service the remarkable sum of £430 was raised for Acorns Hospice.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

We started with carol singing on the 19th by being welcomed in the village hall with a steaming glass of mulled wine and nibbles.

Nick Wright made a valiant effort to get us in tune (Gareth Malone look out!) before we set out to the Priory Rest Home where we were given a warm welcome before singing a number of carols with most of the residents present joining in. The handbell ringers ably led by Ann Carter did a magnificent job in getting the audience well on the way to Christmas. From there we went on to Gately Farm where Elizabeth Skinner and Lee had invited a number of residents from around Addis Lane. More carols followed before we dispersed and retired to press on with our own festive preparations. Many thanks to Nick and the handbell ringers for making this once again a perfect start to Christmas in Elmbridge.



WALK ON, WALK ON

A group of keen walkers met at 11.00am on New Year's Day to walk off any effects of a previous late night- or early morning.

To their surprise and delight, as they were approaching Elmbridge gated road they were met by Tim and Axine and treated to mince pies and a glass of bubbly. If they hadn't already drunk a toast to the New Year, what a great way to make up for it!

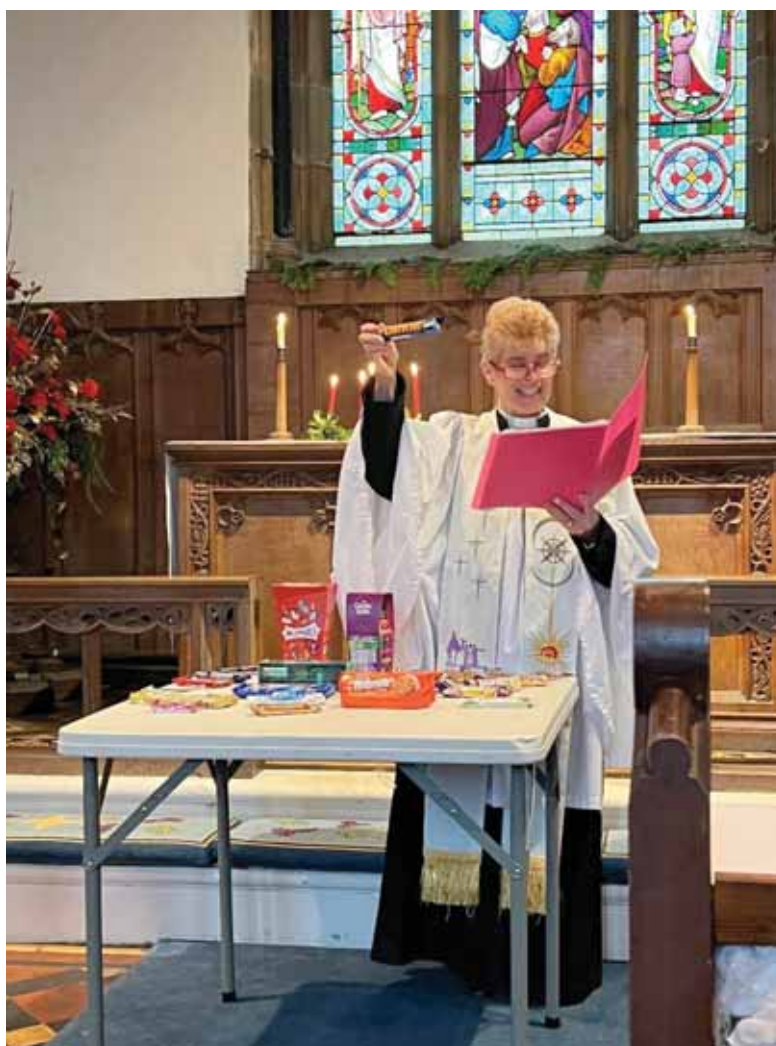


CHRISTMAS DAY

The day dawned bright and sunny. We arrived at church to find it beautifully decorated and everywhere looked immaculate. Firstly, thank you to everyone who had put so much time into making our church and surroundings look so lovely. Thank you to the Broomfield family for the magnificent tree and to Rob Carr & Tony Lloyd for putting it up and decorating it with the help of Sue Allen and granddaughter Vivienne.

Rev. Julie Humphries lead our service and her address was a creative and clever way to tell the story of Jesus's birth. The story was well illustrated with an appropriate range of chocolate treats, sweets and biscuits all of which were fairly distributed at the end of the service. Thank you Julie for giving us a great start to Christmas Day.





FRIENDS OF ELMBRIDGE HOT SUPPER

OVERBURY COURT



The next Hot Supper will be
on
Friday 22nd March
at
7.30pm
In Elmbridge Village Hall

Sorry it's not going to be at Overbury Court **BUT** our speaker Harry Green is from there. Harry is the head gardener at this magnificent country mansion and he's going to tell us how he and his staff look after these beautiful 3 acre gardens including a really productive walled vegetable garden.

Spring will be on us then so it will be a good time to learn something new or pick up some hints to improve your gardening so you can enjoy your own garden even more. Don't forget to book a place (£15) with Chris Grey on 01299 851469 and to bring your own drink and glasses.

FRIENDS OF ELMBRIDGE – CHARITY NEWS

At our AGM on 20th November we were delighted to learn that once again our 'fun' Hot Suppers had resulted in our being able to continue to support our various charities. A total amount of £1,750 has been divided between – St Richards Hospice, Kemp Hospice, Air Ambulance, Marie Curie, Macmillan Nurses and Droitwich Food Bank.

When the Friends first began it was decided that one of our charitable aims would be to support any local person who was raising money for a specific charity. Amy Carter (Ann and Des Carter's granddaughter) is running in the next April's London Marathon supporting Mind and we are delighted to be able to help her.

Over many years, through our various suppers and events, we have donated thousands of pounds to a wide range of charities and it is only with everyone's help and support that we are able to continue this good work.



If you enjoy working in a group to raise money to help others then we would be delighted to have you join us. Why not give Ann Carter a ring on 01299 851640 to find out more.

FOR SALE AND WANTED

Please send all of your personal For Sale and Wanted adverts to the Editor for inclusion in the next issue.



ELMLEY LOVETT NEWS

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

So many contribute to the success of our traditional carol service, from the tree kindly donated by Ann and Martin Needham, the flower arrangements and decorations, the irreplaceable Rector and Organist, the congregation from all over the Benefice and the providers of mince pies. Wilden choir always support us and are much appreciated. They give the rest of the choir some fine confident voices to rally around.

Yet there is nothing better when turning out at 6pm on a cold winters evening to enter the church and be greeted by a glass of mulled wine generously donated and mulled by Guy Cartridge. Without doubt it helped to fulfil the bidding prayer's request to make the church glad with our carols of praise! No one seemed to want to go home after the service and it was worth all of the effort to see it being enjoyed by so many.







ELMLEY CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Our first Christingle service was a great success by all accounts. Ben King, the Head of Cutnall Green school kindly promoted our service at the school. We had a great turnout with more than 110 parents and children coming to St Michael's to enjoy a service of Light with traditional carols and readings.

As usual we are indebted to Nick Wright who brought our great Bird organ to life and gave the children and parents an experience in sound unlike any other that will stay with them forever. Stephen brought a level of enthusiasm to our service which will be sorely missed. A highlight was switching off the lights and leaving the Christingles to light the church.





ROLL OF HONOUR

ROLL OF HONOUR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF ELMLEY LOVETT WHO SERVED THEIR KING AND COUNTRY IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918.	
CHARLES AMIES	GEORGE JORDAN
FRANK BILL	HENRY JORDAN
JOSEPH BROWN	FREDERICK LAIGHT
ARTHUR BROOKES	FRANK MATTHEWS
FRANK BROOKES	JOSEPH SERRELL
FREDERICK BROOKES	THOMAS SERRELL
HARRY CHILDS	FREDERICK STOCKS
WILLIAM COLLINS	HENRY TALBOT
SYDNEY COLLINS	RICHARD TALBOT
WILLIAM COLLINS	JAMES WILKES
GEORGE COOPER	WILFRED WILLCOX
CHRISTOPHER FYSON	THOMAS WINNALL
WILLIAM HENDREY	WILLIAM WRIGHT
GEORGE HILL	EVELYN CARTRIDGE
ALFRED HOPKINS	MARY FYSON
LEONARD HOPKINS	ALICE HOPKINS
OLIVER HOPKINS	LAURA STOCKS

I am most appreciative of Steven Hopkins who has brought the Hopkins names to life in the following article. These names are on the Roll of Honour which is hung in the porch of St Michael's at Elmley Lovett and recognise the men and women of the parish who served King and Country in the Great War.

Hopefully this may trigger further families to share some details of their ancestors whilst they are still in living memory.

Richard Cartwright

THE HOPKINS NAMES ON THE 1914-18 ROLL OF HONOUR FOR THE GREAT WAR

Oliver Charles Hopkins

Oliver was born c.1872 in Stumps Cross near Stanway, Glos, one of 10 siblings including brother Robert, great-grandfather of our current parishioner, Jane Bache. He was baptised at nearby Didbrook in November 1872. His parents were Richard and Hannah (nee Such), ultimately of Condicote, where Richard was Sub-postmaster (like his great-great-granddaughter a few years ago!). In 1894, whilst living at Ryland Street, Birmingham, Oliver married Alice Lea of Wolverhampton. Seven years later, the 1901 Census records them living at Church House Cottage, Old Lodge Park, Elmley Lovett, with Oliver a "groom and coachman". The 1911 Census shows Oliver to be the gardener at the Rectory.

It is not known what part Oliver took in the Great War. He was too old (at 44) for conscription when the 1916 Military Service Act took effect, but that does not preclude a voluntary enlistment - perhaps after he had attended his brother Lewis' burial in Condicote in March 1915, following his death due to head wounds suffered at the First Battle of Ypres in the previous Autumn. However, Oliver does not appear to have qualified for any war medals and so will almost certainly not have served overseas. He died in this area in March 1932.



Alice Ethel Hopkins

Alice was the only daughter of Oliver, born on 13/7/1897 in Elmley Lovett and duly baptized in the church a month later. According to her cousin Richard in the 1980s, Alice's husband was killed in the Great War and she suffered some mental illness as a result. Most likely her husband was Wallace Cooper, a butcher from Kidderminster and later Brierley Hill, who was killed in action with the 1/7th Worcestershire Regiment at the Battle of Poelcappelle (Third Ypres) on 9/10/1917, within two months of their marriage.

The 1939 Census has Alice still a widow and Housekeeper to a confectioner in Market St, Stourbridge. We do not know what part she played "for King and Country" in WW1 other than to give up her husband, but family tradition has it that she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service during WWII. She probably died in 1967.



Alfred John Hopkins

Alfred was Oliver's eldest son, born in the Evesham area on 30/4/1894. The 1911 Census has him with his family in Elmley, a "stable helper". He is almost certainly the Alfred John who also served with the 7th Worcesters, a Regular Soldier having enlisted in 1913. He entered the France & Flanders theatre of war on 31/3/1915 and was wounded or injured some time later, being discharged in July 1917 and awarded the Silver War Badge to witness his hard war service until his three campaign medals were awarded in 1920. He married, within just a few weeks of his discharge, a Lillian Hopkins, perhaps his cousin. By 1939 he was a labourer on "heavywork" in Kidderminster, with at least two children, but later that year was recorded as a gardener. He died in Kidderminster in 1958.

Leonard Hopkins

Oliver's second son, Leonard, was born in Elmley Lovett on 27/9/1899. He may have served in the Royal Field Artillery from February 1915, but an age of 15 1/2 seems to stretch the boy recruiting legend too far. Perhaps instead he was called up on his 18th birthday, never made it overseas and therefore does not appear in any available records?

Leonard joined the Great Western Railway as an Engine Cleaner at Kidderminster Station in 1920, progressing to Fireman (the man with the shovel!) later that year but based in Pontypool. In 1923 the GWR rewarded him with 10/6d for a suggestion!

He also married a Lillian, Floyd, in 1924 in Griffithstown, Monmouthshire. In the 1939 Register he is shown as GWR Locomotive Foreman in Newport and in 1942 he was promoted to Driver. He died, still GWR employed in South Wales, in 1956.

The family would welcome any information to add to, or correct, the above. Please contact Steven Hopkins on tokyngton@aol.com

Steven Hopkins

CHRISTMAS DAY MORNING COMMUNION

More than 20 from around the Benefice came to enjoy our communion service at 9am and our Advent wreath could finally have its centre candle lit, which you can see in the picture below.

It was a pleasure to see Mr Dennis Pick who has family buried in the churchyard. Denis came all the way from Solihull just to share the service with us.



BARBARA D'AUNCEY

Barbara Margaret Evans Hill was born in Liverpool on the 26th March 1937.

Her Mother's side of the family were corn merchants of the Lythgoe family. Her mother sadly died shortly after Barbara was born and, her father Vernon Hill brought her back to the Black Country to be raised initially in Stourbridge by her grandmother Flora Lilly Hill.

Flora Lilly was a formidable woman who ran the family Jeweller's and Opticians in Brierley Hill called FL Hill & Son. Barbara always remembered her fondly and obviously loved her deeply.

Barbara went to Arley Castle School, near Kidderminster, where she boarded. We still have her old tennis racket. She enjoyed sports and making friendships more than the academic side.

She then Worked in the family Jewellery business sometimes assisted by her younger sister Kate, with later stints at large stores such as, Stingers and Owen & Owen in Stourbridge.

Barbara knew everyone, a trait she would carry through her life. Introducing many couples who are still married today.

In those days her organisational skills had already come to the fore, we have several photos of fund raisers, dinners and dances she had helped to arrange for various causes and clubs.

She then met Peter D'Auncey, I would imagine through his connections in Stourbridge, as he had Norton Road Petrol station and Garage at the time.

They then had Charles and eventually two lovely Granddaughters Anabel and Laura, who were the apple of her eye.

Barbara was a great Wife, Mother and Grandmother who put family first above all else.

She provided great strength and support to all of us. Her advice and opinions were always measured, unselfish and delivered with your best interests at heart. Anything she could do to help she would. You could definitely count on her not to let you down.

Another strength of hers was patience and a forgiving attitude. When Dad/Peter swam Torquay harbour to win a bet on New Years Day in 1969, she was there waiting when he got out with a few choice words, but also a towel and his clothes!

Peter and Barbara lived initially in Robin Cottage, Hall Lane, Hagley and then moved to Hill Farm, Doverdale. Barbara had a wide social network across Worcestershire at this time including various flower clubs, British Legion, sports clubs where Charles was involved and Riding for the Disabled where she would volunteer and lead the children on horseback.

When Charles went to University, she started work again for 2 days a week at Safeways, later Morrisons, in Droitwich. Again she made great friends over the 25 years she worked there.

It could be said she also ran a taxi and restaurant business at the time, fetching and feeding Charles and his friends from many social events. Many of whom are here today.

She has also been involved in Cutnall Green Cricket Club in some capacity for the last 30 years, most recently as treasurer. But it was her cricket teas for which she is best remembered.

Nothing would make her happier than one of the players complementing her on the spread or on one of her legendary trifles, she had spent the day before making.

She has passed on her culinary skills to her granddaughters. It was a source of great pride to Barbara that Anabel at the age of 9 won the King's Hawford School bake off competition with one of Nan's recipes. Many hours were spent in Nan's kitchen practicing so Anabel could talk to the camera whilst baking the cake. The hard work paid off.

She was also known for her purple hair in later years, which matched her mini convertible (which went everywhere at 50mph by the way, no matter the road or conditions). During covid not being able to get her hair done was a source of great frustration. So, her other granddaughter Laura, was summoned and told she would be fine to have a go. They had a great time in Nan's kitchen and the purple tint was restored.

As said earlier, Barbara was a very social person and would enjoy her Friday nights out with Chris and Val, Phil and Miriam and Anthony and Angela and regular trips out with her great friends including Sharon, Mary and Barbara. As well as regular visits to the Royal British Legion Club, Bingo, as well as watching the cricket with Fred on a Saturday.

She would never turn down an invitation, as she said, "they may not ask again".

Another of her sayings was "turn the page and move on". Which I think is the way she lived her life, always to the full and always doing and achieving things whilst moving forwards and helping others.

She will be greatly missed and leave a big hole in the lives of all of us who knew her and counted her as a mother, grandmother and above all else a friend.

So now, we must remember her with love, celebrate a life well lived and turn the page and move forwards.



HAMPTON LOVETT NEWS

We hope you have all had a very Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Date for you diary - 14th February Ash Wednesday service at 7.30 pm @ Hampton Lovett

CHRISTMAS

The festivities and services here in Hampton all went very well and were enjoyed by many.

The church looked very festive decorated for Christmas with plenty of lights and greenery and it was also very exciting to see our lovely tower lit up for the evening services for the first time for many, many years. The band of workmen worked hard to get it all finished in time and it was good to see the scaffolding taken away after so many months.

Stephen led a lovely Christmas Carol service for us on 10th December which was well attended. There were several readings by various members of the congregation and I read a lovely poem called "The Barn" which many enjoyed. It was lovely to see people of all ages participating. We sang many popular carols, all accompanied by Nick on the organ.



Our first Christmas candle was lit by Stephen. After the service we enjoyed a glass (or 2!) of wine (donated by June) and nibbles or a mince pie made by Ruth or myself.



Our Christmas Eve service was also taken by Stephen when he lit the last of our Christmas candles and gave us communion.

Again, we sang some lovely carols and saw the tower lit up as we approached the church on arrival.

It was a lovely start to our Christmas day.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024



FRIDAY 1 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!

I beg you, bear with
one another in love

**TO BE HELD AT
HAMPTON LOVETT
CHURCH
@ 11am**

Please stay for soup and a chat afterwards



INFORMED PRAYER, PRAYERFUL ACTION

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PEOPLE IN OUR THOUGHTS

We send our best wishes to Geoff Crow who has had a spell in hospital recently but is now hopefully on the mend.

We also wish Carole Dancox and Doreen Bale better health in 2024 as they have both been poorly recently.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year the service will be held here at St Mary & All Saints, Hampton Lovett on Friday 1st March at 11.00am. It has been prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine who hold a very special place in our hearts at the moment.

We hope as many of you who can, will join us at this special service.

After the service there will be an opportunity for you to stay and chat with everyone and enjoy a bowl of soup together.

And now for our light hearted pages....

One Sunday the vicar told his congregation that the church needed extra money and asked them all to put extra money in their offerings.

He said whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns.

After the offering plates were passed round the vicar noticed someone had placed a £1000 offering on a plate.

The vicar was so excited that he immediately shared his joy and said he'd personally like to thank the generous person.

A very quiet elderly lady at the back of the church shyly raised her hand and the vicar asked her to come forward so she slowly made her way up the aisle.

He told her how wonderfully generous it was of her and asked her to choose her three hymns.

Her eyes lit up and she looked around at the congregation.

She pointed to the three most handsome young men and said "I'll have him and him and him!"

Jo's husband never helped her around the house or with the children although she worked full time too. He said it was women's work.

One evening she arrived home from work to find the children bathed, laundry done and dinner ready on the table.

She was surprised- something was up.

It turned out that her husband had read an article about full time working wives being too tired when they went to bed.

The night went well and next day Jo told her work mates all about it. "We had a great dinner and he even cleared up. He helped the children with their homework and even put away the washing."

"But what about afterwards?" asked her friends.

"Oh that was perfect too. He was too tired!"

An old lady had three grown up sons who each bought her a present for her milestone birthday.

The 1st son bought her a fabulous big car.

The 2nd son who had made it big in life bought her a beautiful big house.

The 3rd son knowing she was very devout searched and searched for something appropriate until eventually he came across an extremely rare parrot that could recite the bible and explain all of its prophecies.

However the bird was in Madagascar and it was extremely expensive but after much thought he decided to sell his house and his car and travel there to buy the parrot.

Sometime later the old lady is writing her thank you letters to her sons.

To the 1st son she wrote "Thank you so much for the lovely big house. It was very kind of you but it is really far too big for just me so I am going to sell it and buy a little bungalow. I hope you don't mind."

To the 2nd son, a similar letter went out saying the car was far too big and would be exchanged for a smaller one.

To the 3rd son she wrote "Ah now you know what was closest to my heart, thank you so much for the chicken, it was delicious!"

SCHOOL - 1950 x 2022

Scenario : Johnny and Mark get into a fight after school.

1950s - Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up best friends.

2022 - Police called, and they arrest Johnny and Mark and charge them with assault.

Both expelled even though Johnny started it.

Both children go to anger management programmes for 3 months.

School governors hold meeting to implement bullying prevention programmes.

Scenario : Robbie won't be still in class, disrupts other students.

1950s - Robbie sent to the office and given six of the best by the Principal.

Returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.

2022 - Robbie given huge doses of Ritalin. Becomes a zombie. Tested for ADHD – result deemed to be positive.

Robbie's parents get fortnightly disability payments and school gets extra funding from government because Robbie has a disability.

Scenario : Billy breaks a window in his neighbour's car and his Dad gives him a whipping with his belt.

1950s - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college, and becomes a successful businessman.

2022 - Billy's dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy removed to foster care; joins a gang; ends up in jail.

Scenario : Mark gets a headache and takes some Aspirin to school.

1950s - Mark gets glass of water from Principal to take aspirin with, passes exams and becomes a solicitor.

2022 - Police called, car searched for drugs and weapons. Mark expelled from school for drug taking. Ends up as a drop out.

Scenario : Johnny takes apart leftover fireworks from Guy Fawkes Night, puts them in a paint tin and blows up a wasp's nest.

1950s - Wasps die.

2022- Police and anti-Terrorism Squad called.

Johnny charged with domestic terrorism; investigate parents, siblings removed from home, computers confiscated. Johnny's Dad goes on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly in an aeroplane again.

Scenario : Johnny falls over while playing football during morning break and scrapes his knee.
He is found crying by his teacher, Mary. She hugs him to comfort him.

1950s - In a short time, Johnny feels better and goes on playing football. No damage done.

2022 - Mary is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces 3 years in prison.

Johnny undergoes 5 years of therapy and ends up gay.

And lastly something else to think about....

I grew up eating what I found on my plate and wearing what my mother could afford.

That's how I learned to be grateful and appreciative. A GOOD 2024 TO YOU ALL

Margaret Vertigen



RUSHOCK NEWS

COFFEE MORNING

It was lovely to welcome many people for the first Coffee Morning of the year at Rushock village hall on Tuesday 2nd January.

We took the opportunity to congratulate Cyril Savage on his recent 90th birthday. Everyone sung "Happy Birthday" as the firework candle was lit on the chocolate caterpillar cake! Wonderful!

Just a reminder that our Coffee Mornings take place in the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 10.30am. Freshly made coffee and homemade cakes are served where everyone can meet and catch up in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Everyone is welcome.

Jennie Walker



DATES FOR DIARY

Rushock Show , Sunday 15th September

Fun family day held every 2 years, schedule to follow – Vegetables, Fruit, Cake, Art, Drinks, Jams, Honey, Flowers and Pet Classes for all ages.

Theresa Morris

Cheese & Wine evening

Back by popular request, we are pleased to announce that we will be holding another Cheese & Wine evening at 7.30pm on Saturday, 9 March at Rushock Village Hall.

Beginning with a glass of fizz, join us on an exploration of some interesting wines, accompanied by a selection of cheeses and accompaniments. Learn about the characteristics of each wine, as well as the area in which it is produced, in good company.

Tickets at £15 per person are available from John Nicholls, Kevin Jones and Theresa Morris

Kevin Jones

ADVENT DINNER

On Saturday 25th November, forty guests supported a wonderful evening at our Advent Dinner, held in Rushock village hall.

Guests firstly gathered in the church where drinks and a wonderful array of canapes were served, kindly made by Vicki Jennings and Sally Davies, before walking across to the village hall for dinner.

The hall was decorated beautifully with lots of flowers, twinkly lights and festive foliage, with the fire making it warm and cosy. A delicious dinner was very generously provided by Lord Lee Morton which was served by his excellent team. A fun game took place after dinner followed by some dancing which rounded off the evening to perfection.

A special thanks to Theresa and Charlie Morris for all their hard work and many others, of whom there are too many to mention, but who helped and contributed in making the evening a success. Thanks to all who supported a most enjoyable evening with wonderful food, wine and great company.

Jennie Walker





THE RUSHOCK CRIB SERVICE

On the afternoon of Christmas Eve Rushock church was again, quite literally, full to the rafters for the Crib service. Nick Wright, for once, did not play the organ in splendid isolation but was joined by members of the congregation who were unable to squeeze into the pews of the church but joined in his excellent rendition of some much loved carols.

Following a welcome by Reverend Stephen we enjoyed the inaugural performance of the Rushock Male Voice Choir who were led and conducted in style by Archie Morris, as they sang Once in Royal David's City. We hope that they will become a feature of future Christmas celebrations in Rushock.

Then the children gave an excellent performance of "Mary Christmas". A time slip version of the wonderful Christmas story during which Molly Jones sang a beautiful solo of Silent Night. We seem to be developing some remarkable young talents in Rushock and it is an absolute joy to watch all these young people growing in both ability and confidence.

Following the final blessing the congregation were encouraged to welcome a very special visitor into the church by singing Jingle Bells. Father Christmas then gave chocolate gifts to the cast and other children in church. All this under the watchful eye of Vicky Jennings, who tells me that this was her 63rd Crib service in Rushock church. That in itself was certainly a cause to celebrate!

I must offer sincere thanks to all who helped. The Parish Council for their sponsorship, our organist, our soloists, our choir, our Father Christmas and, of course, our children.

Dee Cutler





A MESSAGE FROM THE CHADDESLEY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

BACKGROUND

There has been a Patient Participation Group (PPG) at Chaddesley Corbett Surgery for more than 20 years. Chaddesley Surgery seeks to provide the best possible service for our patient community. Against the background of national directives and constraints we believe that it performs that function very well. Every two months a group of us meet with members of the medical team to discuss areas of common interest affecting both patients and practitioners and in support of local provision.

In summary the **aims of the Chaddesley PPG** are as follows:

- To support good relations between the surgery and patients.
- To work collaboratively with the practice to improve services and facilities for patients.
- To build two-way communication and co-operation between the practice and patients.
- To act as a representative group to support the practice and influence local provision.

CHADDESLEY PPG and the Primary Care Network (PCN)

Each medical practice belongs to a geographical **Primary Care Network**. Our group includes Droitwich, Ombersley and the Rurals. Patient members of the Chaddesley Group regularly attend (via zoom) meetings organised by the PCN to which senior figures in the NHS provide input. In recent months this has included Stroke and Mental Health Provision, as well as an update regarding the new A and E facility at Worcester Royal Hospital. We have the opportunity to provide feedback during these meetings.

USEFUL INFORMATION AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MEDICAL EMERGENCY DIAL 999 for life threatening situations

DIAL 111 for less serious situations or to seek further advice, or request a visit from an out of hours practitioner.

DIAL 01562 777 239 at the surgery for **appointments** and **01562 777 844** for the **Dispensary**.

Please note that if you live alone and need help urgently you may ask a relative, friend or neighbour to make initial contact on your behalf, but you must give them your permission.

Large posters displayed in the Reception Area give very useful information about the range of services provided by the practice.

If you would like to find out more about the PPG or wish to join us, please see the notice board next to the Dispensary or contact Diane Dolley on 01562 777 841 or enquiries at the surgery. Minutes of meetings are displayed on the notice board as well as contact details for patient members of the group.

Members of the Patient Participation Group include Lyn Bruton, Kate Griffiths, Chris Palin, Councillor Sue Smith, Steve Williams, Frank Wayt, Diane Dolley (Chair). Vicki Shattock (who is unable to attend meetings) receives calling notices and minutes of each meeting. Medical team representatives include Dr L Bramble, Dr L.Evrivades and Louise Thomas (Medical Secretary).



The next Care Café will be held on

**WEDNESDAY 14th FEBRUARY
2024**



In the Village Hall

**For those living with dementia or other illnesses and their carers
and those who would appreciate some company for a while!**

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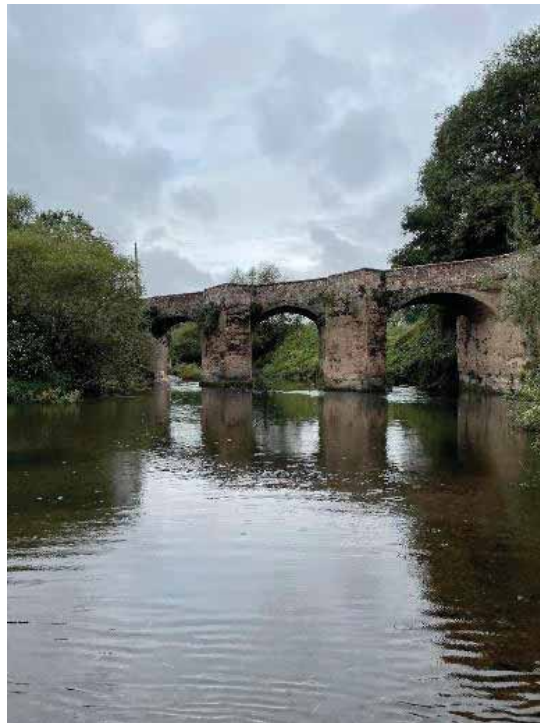
Café run by Chaddesley Community Care – A Registered Charity No. 1186785

Chaddesley Corbett Local History Society

Wednesday February 21st 7.30pm

John Price will speak on

The Monarch's Way – The escape of Charles II after the Battle of Worcester



Powick Bridge, Where the Monarch's Way begins

The 625 miles of the Monarch's Way links various towns, villages, country houses and inns associated with the then future King Charles II's escape from Worcester in 1651. The route uses rights-of-way (sometimes sharing other national routes like The Cotswold Way) This long-distance path is the longest way-marked inland walk in the UK and it passes through Chaddesley Corbett as it goes north and then it's southern section is through Dodford.

John Price has extensive knowledge about the passage of the prince, soon to be King Charles II and this historic path. He is mentioned in The Daily Telegraph "In the footsteps of a king: walking the Monarch's Way".

You will recognise so many local places in this talk and learn something new at each turn.

It is planned that a History Society Summer Walk 2024 will in part follow the section of the Monarch's Way that crosses our parish. You too can follow the footsteps of a king who regained his throne.

Watch on Zoom

Members unable to attend the meeting in person can watch it via Zoom. Please request a link via email below.

Talks held in Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall, DY10 4QA

Enquiries to Freda Griffith 07747618487

Email – fred@fredagriffith.co.uk Visitors are always welcome@£5 paid on the door.

The next meeting will be March 20th Tim Bridges
Victorian and Edwardian Buildings of the Midlands



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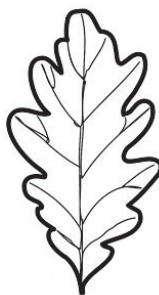


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DATE	LITURGICAL COLOURS	TIME	CHURCH	FESTIVAL/ SUNDAY	SERVICE/ LEADER	SIDESMAN	READER	FLOWERS	LESSONS
Feb 4th	GREEN	9.00am	Hampton Lovett	2nd Sunday before Lent	HC-CW	Trish Hartley & Rachel Wyatt			Prov 8:1,22-31 Col 1:15-20 John 1:1-14
		10.30am	Elmbridge		Family Service	Carol & Tony Lloyd		Hazel Horton	
Feb 11th	GREEN	9.00am	Rushock	Sunday before Lent	HC-CW			Lynne Smith & Silvie Wootton	2 Kings 2:1-12 2 Cor 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9
		10.30am	Elmley Lovett		MP-BCP	Tim Goss	Judy Bromage		
Feb 14th	PURPLE	7.30pm	Hampton Lovett	Ash Wednesday	HC-CW <i>Stephen Winter</i>	Churchwardens		No Flowers	Joel 2:1-2,12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10 Matt 6:1-6,16-21 or John 8:1-11
Feb 18th	PURPLE	9.00am	Elmbridge	1st Sunday of Lent	HC-CW	Michael & Ann Cooper		No Flowers	Gen 9:8-17 1 Pet 3:18-end Mark 1:9-15
		6.00pm	Hampton Lovett		ES-BCP	Neil Cutler & Judith Watson		No Flowers	
Feb 25th	PURPLE	9.00am	Elmley Lovett	2nd Sunday of Lent	HC-BCP <i>Stephen Winter</i>	Marzena Cartwright	Richard Cartwright	No Flowers	Gen 17:1-7,15-16 Rom 4:13-end Mark 8:31-end
Mar 1st		11.00am	Hampton Lovett	World Day of Prayer		Various			
Mar 3rd	PURPLE	9.00am	Hampton Lovett	3rd Sunday of Lent	HC-BCP <i>Stephen Winter</i>	Margaret Vertigen & Jerry Hartley		No Flowers	Exod 20:1-17 1 Cor 1:18-25 John 2:13-22
		10.30am	Elmbridge		Family Service	Sue Horton & Jan Taylor		No Flowers	

KEY : BCP - Book of Common Prayer, CW - Common Worship, HC - Holy Communion, MP - Morning Prayer, ES - Morning Prayer



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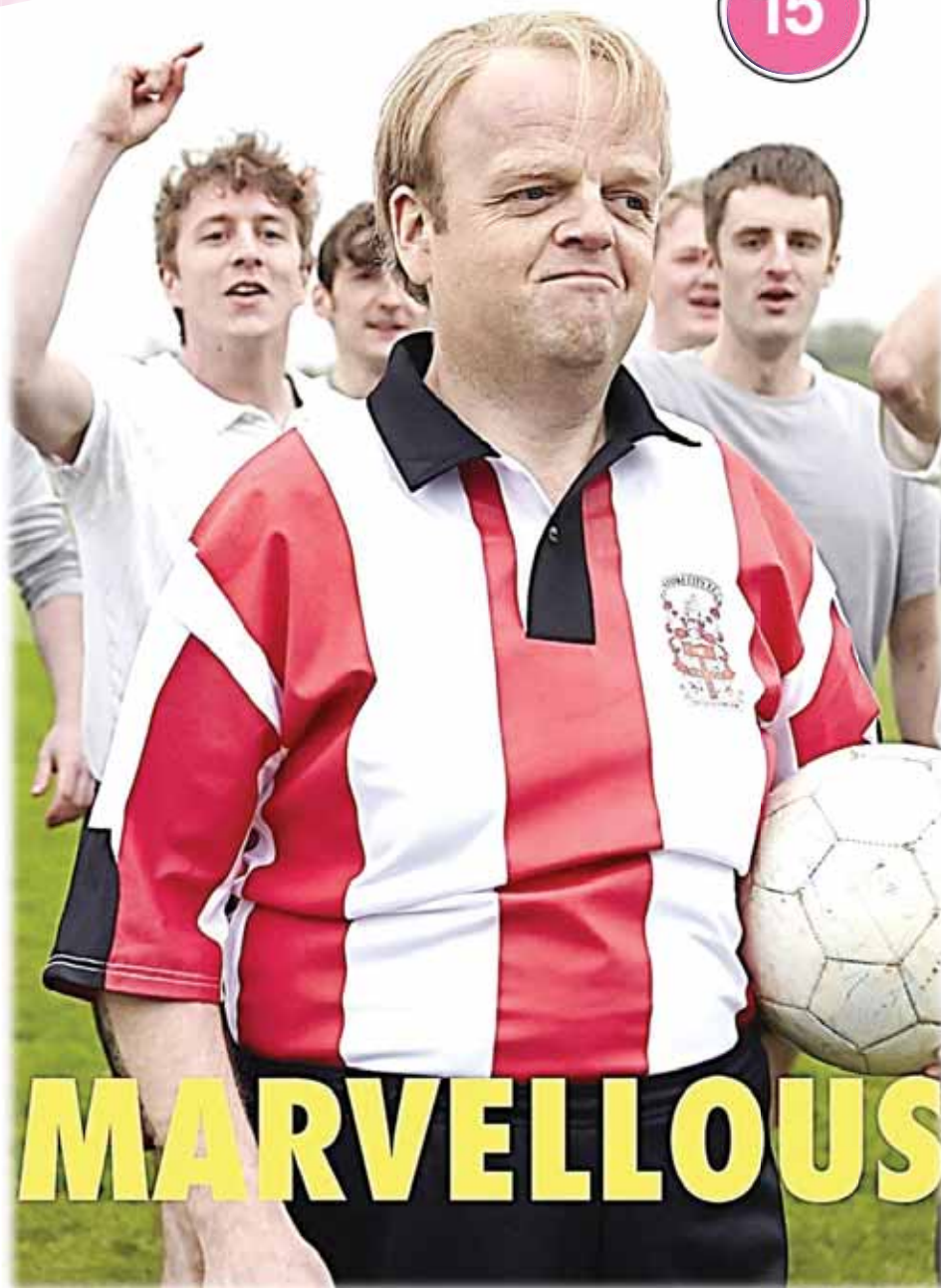
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